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Third Workshop on Gender, Methodology, and the Ancient Near East Enhancing Networking and Consolidating an Initiative

Katrien De Graef, Agnès Garcia-Ventura, Anne Goddeeris, and Saana Svärd

The third edition of GeMANE (Workshop on Gender, Methodology and the Ancient Near East), which took place in Ghent (Belgium) April 8–10, 2019, was hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the Ghent University and was organized in cooperation with the “Centre of Excellence in Ancient Near Eastern Empires” of the University of Helsinki. The organizing committee consisted of Katrien De Graef (Ghent University, Belgium), Agnès Garcia-Ventura (University of Barcelona – University Autònoma of Barcelona, Spain), Anne Goddeeris (Ghent University, Belgium), and Saana Svärd (University of Helsinki, Finland). The scientific committee consisted of the above-mentioned scholars together with Beth Alpert Nakhai (University of Arizona, USA) and Megan Cifarelli (Manhattanville College, USA), two scholars linked from the very beginning to the GeMANE meetings.

GeMANE 3 was a continuation of GeMANE 1 (held in Helsinki in October 2014) and GeMANE 2 (held in Barcelona, Spain, in February 2017) and the initiative will have continuity from now on as a biannual conference.¹ GeMANE 4 will be held in Helsinki in Spring 2021. Exact dates and an open call for papers will be announced in due time. Moreover, some nominations for

GeMANE 5 and GeMANE 6 have been submitted, which will ensure the continuity and success of this series of workshops and meetings on gender studies.

GeMANE 3 lasted three days and featured 27 communications delivered by scholars from various universities in twelve countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, and the United States. It also featured two outstanding keynote lectures. The first, entitled “Grandmother’s Tablets. Some Reflections on Female Landowners in Nuzi,” was delivered by Brigitte Lion (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France). The second, entitled “‘Perhaps it Was Always Already Gender’: Dressed Bodies in the Archaeological Record,” was delivered by Megan Cifarelli.

Furthermore, following an initiative first tested in the second GeMANE, during the last afternoon of the conference a Project Panel was organized to present and discuss ongoing projects on gender, methodology, and the ancient Near East. On this occasion it featured four presentations by Beth Alpert Nakhai, Amy Gansell, Ann Guinan, and Cheryl Morgan.

The Project Panel was followed by the GeMANE Study Group Panel where it was announced that the fourth GeMANE will be

held in Helsinki (as noted above). Furthermore, in this panel were launched the proceedings and volumes related to previous meetings: *Studying Gender in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Saana Svärd and Agnès Garcia-Ventura (2018, Eisenbrauns/Penn State University Press), and *Gender and Methodology in the Ancient Near East: Approaches from Assyriology and Beyond*, edited by Stephanie Lynn Budin, Megan Cifarelli, Agnès Garcia-Ventura and Adelina Millet Albà (2018, Barcino Monographica Orientalia 10 — Universitat de Barcelona Edicions). This second volume is dedicated to Ann Guinan. As chance would have it, Ann celebrated her seventieth birthday in February 2017 while GeMANE 2 was taking place at the University of Barcelona. Taking advantage of that serendipity sparked the proposal to dedicate this work to her, a brilliant scholar committed to the engendering of Assyriology.

The main aim of the third GeMANE workshop, as for those previous, was to discuss different methodological and theoretical approaches to gender within the framework of ancient Near Eastern studies (including archaeology, art history, and text studies), including, for example, neighboring disciplines such as Egyptology, Phoenician and Punic studies, and biblical studies (see the full program below). This diversity enabled debates on wide-ranging topics such as gendered spaces, gendered characters in Sumerian and Akkadian literature, the adequacy of binary male/female framework of analysis for certain research topics (and thus the applicability of queer perspectives), gender studies perspectives applied to coroplastic studies, queenship and queens in Mesopotamian sources, the role of women in the economy as

attested in cuneiform tablets, approaches to biographical profiles of pioneer women of the field, network analysis and its interactions with gender studies, and law and gender. Luckily, this diversity of disciplines, approaches, and topics resulted in a rich exchange of ideas following each communication. As in the previous meetings, the atmosphere was collegial and friendly, despite some healthy differences of opinion.

As a tangible outcome of GeMANE 3, pictures of all speakers and a group photo of all participants can be found at both the website of the event (www.gemane3.ugent.be) and its facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GeMANE3/>). Moreover, some communications and debates were recorded by Anne Goddeeris, which can be found on YouTube. Finally, we plan to publish a proceedings volume. The editors will be (in alphabetical order): Beth Alpert Nakhai, Katrien De Graef, Agnès Garcia-Ventura, and Anne Goddeeris.

The organizers and participants of GeMANE 3 are already looking forward to the next meeting. We hope to have the chance to see you there!²

Notes

1. For an overview of the genesis of these meetings and some information about the first two, see A. Garcia-Ventura and S. Svärd, "Studying Gender in the Ancient Near East: First Steps and Future Prospects," *Near Eastern Archaeology* 79.3 (2016), 222–23.
2. We encourage all those interested on being included in the mailing of the GeMANE Study Group to send an email to agnes.ventura@gmail.com.

Full programme of the Third Workshop on Gender, Methodology, and the Ancient Near East, Ghent University (Belgium), 8–10 April 2019

Monday, 8 April 2019

Welcoming Session

- 09:30–09:40 Welcome by Gita Deneckere, Dean of the Faculty of Arts
- 09:40–10:00 Welcome by Katrien De Graef on behalf of the organizing committee

First Keynote Lecture

- 10:00–10:30 Brigitte Lion (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Grandmother's Tablets. Some Reflections on Female Landowners in Nuzi

Session 1: Gendered Spaces & Spheres

Chair: Agnès Garcia-Ventura

- 11:00–11:30 Lorenzo Verderame (Università degli Studi "La Sapienza" di Roma)
Engendered Cosmic Spaces in Ancient Mesopotamian Myths
- 11:30–12:00 Laura Cousin (CNRS & Université de Nanterre)
Looking for Gendered Spaces: The Case of Babylon in the First Millennium BC

- 12:00–12:30 Karolien Vermeulen (University of Antwerp)
Of Cities, Mothers, and Homes. A Cognitive-Stylistic Approach to Gendered Space in the Hebrew Bible

Session 2: Gender in the Neo-Assyrian World

Chair: Megan Cifarelli

- 14:00–14:30 Amy R. Gansell (St John's University)
Images Divinely Sanctioned: Neo-Assyrian Queenship at Nimrud's Northwest Palace
- 14:30–15:00 Saana Svärd (University of Helsinki)
Arabian Queens: Constructing Identity in the Neo-Assyrian Empire
- 15:00–15:30 Omar N'Shea (University of Malta) & Sophus Helle (Aarhus University)
Soldier of Scholar? Competing Masculinities in the Representation of Ashurbanipal



Session 3: Sex and Gender

Chair: Saana Svärd

- 16:00-16:30 Ann K. Guinan (University of Pennsylvania)
Probing the Boundaries of Mesopotamian Hetero-
normativity: The Case of Tablet 103
- 16:30-17:00 Natalie N. May (University of Leiden)
Women in Cult in Mesopotamia

Tuesday, 9 April 2019

Second Keynote Lecture

- 09:00-09:30 Megan Cifarelli (Manhattanville College)
"Perhaps it Was Always Already Gender:" Dressed
Bodies in the Archaeological Record

Session 4: Archaeology & Iconography Part I (Then)

Chair: Katrien De Graef

- 09:30-10:00 Frances Pinnock (Università degli Studi "La Sapi-
enza" di Roma)
The Late Bronze Age in Syria: Was It a Dark Age
for Women?
- 10:00-10:30 Sera Yelözer & Mihriban Özbaşaran (Istanbul
University)
Entangled at Death: Beads, Gender, and the Dead
at Early Neolithic Aşıkh Höyük

- 10:30-11:00 Raffaele Frascarelli & Letteria Grazia Fassari (Uni-
versità degli Studi "La Sapienza" di Roma)
Queering the Past: The Case of the Goddess on
Lion at Hasanlu

Session 5: Archaeology & Iconography Part II (Now)

Chair: Anne Goddeeris

- 11:30-12:00 Beth Alpert Nakhai (University of Arizona)
Ecce Feminae: Excavating at the Convent of Notre
Dame of Sion and the Arch of Ecce Homo on
Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa
- 12:00-12:30 Agnès Garcia-Ventura (IPOA-Universitat de Bar-
celona / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Women Talking about Women: Digging the Me-
mory of Women in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Session 6: Biblical World

Chair: Beth Alpert-Nakhai

- 14:00-14:30 Anne Katrine de Hemmer Gudme (University of
Copenhagen)
The Aroma of Majesty: Gender and the Hebrew
Bible's Olfactory Cultic Theology
- 14:30-15:00 Cathleen Chopra-McGowan (University of Chicago)
Lamentations as Indictments of Masculinity: The
Complexity of Gender Performance

15:00-15:30 Elizabeth B. Tracy (Ph.D. St Andrews University)
Vanishing Point: Perspectivity on Women in the
Book of Exodus

Session 7: Phoenician and Punic Worlds

Chair: Brigitte Lion

16:00-16:30 Ana Delgado Hervás & Aurora Rivera (Universitat
Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona)
Rituals of Mothering and Fathering in Phoenician
Sacred Places

16:30-17:00 Mireia López-Bertran (Universitat de València)
& Meritxell Ferrer (Universitat Pompeu Fabra de
Barcelona)
Performing Beauty in Phoenician in Punic Cultu-
res: A Gender Perspective

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

Session 8: Female Social Networks

Chair: Ann K. Guinan

09:00-09:30 Allison Thomason (Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville)
Women's Property and Social Networks in Meso-
potamia

09:30-10:00 Anne Goddeeris (Ghent University)
Women and their Weight: Incorporating Weigh-
ted Nodes in a Network Analysis of the Central
Redistributive Household of Old Babylonian Nip-
pur

10:00-10:30 James D. Moore (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
& Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung
Berlin)
Socio-Historical Insights into Women at Elephan-
tine according to the Aramaic Documentary Sour-
ces

Session 9: Women in Economy Part I

Chair: Frances Pinnock

11:00-11:30 Baptiste Fiette (CNRS & Collège de France)
Zinû, Wife and Manager in Old Babylonian Larsa

11:30-12:00 Katrien De Graef (Ghent University)
Seals on Heels: The Sealing Practice of Female
Economic Actors in Old Babylonian Sippar

12:00-12:30 Ilan Peled (University of Amsterdam)
Was It Law? Gender Relations and Legal Practice
in the Ancient Near East

Session 10: Women in Economy Part II

Chair: Natalie N. May

14:00-14:30 Yoko Watai (University of Tsukuba)
Women Involved in Daily Management in Ac-
haemenid Babylonia: The Cases of Rē'indu and
Andiya

14:30-15:00 Sarah Jarmer Scott (Wagner College)
The Scorpion and the Spider: Gendered Identities
in Early Literate Seals and Sealings

15:00-15:40 Fumi Karahashi (Chuo University) & Agnès Gar-
cia-Ventura (IPOA-Universitat de Barcelona /
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Women's Participation in Socio-Economic Activi-
ties in Pre-Sargonic Lagash

Session 11: Ongoing Projects & Future Plans

16:10-16:50 Project Panel

Presentation and Discussion of Ongoing Projects on
Gender, Methodology, and the Ancient Near East

16:50-17:20 GeMANE Study Group Panel

Presentation of "Studying Gender in the Ancient
Near East vol. II" (proceedings of Barcelona meet-
ing) & planning of 4th Workshop in Helsinki
(2021)

